

# PRESS RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

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## Contact Person

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Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Perfecto Pineda-Duque a/k/a "Peto," 22, a citizen of Mexico, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 46 months in prison for conspiring to possess cocaine with intent to distribute. Pineda-Duque pleaded guilty to this charge on December 4, 2008. Pineda-Duque will be deported to Mexico after he completes his prison sentence.

Between July 2006 and June 2008, Pineda-Duque and eight other defendants conspired to possess cocaine with intent to distribute in the Watertown area. Pineda-Duque's co-defendants Maximo Pineda-Buenaventura and Efrain Pineda-Buenaventura have pleaded guilty and are scheduled to be sentenced on February 3, 2009, and February 18, 2009, respectively. Three other co-defendants, Will Bryant, Jesus Duque-Pineda, and Servando Herrera-Vazquez have already have been sentenced to prison for their role in the case. Three of Pineda-Duque's co-defendants remain fugitives.

Beginning in February 2008, the United States received authority from Chief Judge Crabb to conduct wiretaps on several of the telephones being used by Pineda-Duque and his co-defendants to conduct their drug operation. Approximately 8000

calls were monitored by law enforcement officers in which the defendants conducted drug transactions or made arrangements for the delivery of cocaine in the Western District of Wisconsin.

On June 19, 2008, law enforcement officers executed 11 search warrants in the Western and Eastern Districts of Wisconsin, resulting in the arrest of Pineda-Duque and his co-defendants, the seizure of over \$100,000 in United States currency, several automobiles, and multiple kilograms of cocaine. Pineda-Duque was caught with approximately one-quarter kilogram of cocaine and packaging materials.

In addition to the arrest of the above-named defendants, police also arrested Arturo Pineda Lopez, Gerardo Pineda-Soria, Juan C. Pineda Pineda, Teodulo Pineda-Buenaventura, Otoniel Mendoza, and Eli Torres-Banos. All of these individuals were indicted by a federal grand jury in a separate conspiracy and have pleaded guilty, with the exception of Pineda-Soria, who is scheduled for trial on March 9, 2009.

The charges against Pineda-Duque were the result of an investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigations-Narcotics Bureau, Dodge County Sheriff's Department, Jefferson County Drug Task Force, Fort Atkinson Police Department, Watertown Police Department, and Janesville Police Department. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

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